



## ***Glossary, Definitions and Caveats***



## **Research and Planning Division & Data Analytics Unit**

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# Caveats and Definitions

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## Table of Contents

**General Caveats and Definitions.....2**

**Public Dashboard Definitions.....9**

    Admissions Dashboard ..... 10

    Release/Release to the Community Dashboards..... 11

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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### **General Caveats and Definitions**

<b>ACA</b>	The American Correctional Association
<b>Admissions</b>	Inmates who are admitted to a facility of the Department of Correction (DOC), pursuant to a court order, as a transfer from another DOC facility, pursuant to the execution of a parole violation warrant or pursuant to the execution of an escape warrant.
<b>Commitment for Alcohol or Substance Abuse Disorder</b>	A male who was committed by a court to the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35, or a female who, prior to April 24, 2016, was committed to MCI-Framingham pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35.
<b>Average Daily Population</b>	The average daily population for a given calendar year is calculated by adding together the count from the last day of each month broken out by institution, then divided by twelve (12).
<b>CFI</b>	Stands for "County/Federal/Interstate" and includes inmates housed in correctional facilities outside of the Massachusetts DOC (i.e. Massachusetts houses of correction, other states' correctional facilities and the Federal Bureau of Prisons).
<b>Civil Commitment or "Civil"</b>	A male who has been committed by a court to Bridgewater State Hospital pursuant to G.L. c. 123, section 7 and 8, 15, 16 or 18; or to the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35; or to the Massachusetts Treatment Center pursuant to G.L. c. 123A; a female who, prior to April 24, 2016, was committed to MCI-Framingham pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35; or a female who has been committed to MCI-Framingham, a branch of the Massachusetts Treatment Center, pursuant to G.L. c. 123A.
<b>Commitments</b>	Inmates who are newly admitted to a committing institution pursuant to a sentence, an order of civil commitment or as otherwise prescribed by law.
<b>Court Release</b>	Inmates are released from the Massachusetts DOC by operation of a court order, and include the following: Habeas to Court – Sentenced Habeas to Court – Did not return Habeas to Court – Return with new case number Habeas to Court – Received forthwith sentence Court Release – Sentence revoked/stayed/vacated Bailed - Released on personal recognizance Bailed - Released on personal recognizance to a warrant

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

<b>Crime Bill</b>	The common term for Chapter 192 of the Acts of 2012, effective August 2, 2012, which resulted in an immediate change to the sentence structure for numerous inmates.
<b>Crime Lab</b>	The William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute, commonly referenced as the “Hinton Drug Lab.” Issues regarding the accuracy of testing at the Hinton Drug Lab resulted in several hundred releases by court orders, primarily during the months of September-November of 2012.
<b>Criminally Sentenced or “Sentenced”</b>	Individuals who have been found guilty of a criminal offense by a judge or jury and have been committed to a period of incarceration, whether directly or after a violation of probation or parole.
<b>Custody Population</b>	An inmate who is incarcerated in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
<b>Design Capacity</b>	The number of inmates that planners or architects intended to house in a facility.
<b>DOC</b>	The Massachusetts Department of Corrections.
<b>Drug Offense</b>	Offenses set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94C, including offenses pertaining to the distribution or possession with intent to distribute, trafficking of drugs, and drug violations within proscribed distances from schools and parks.
<b>Earned Good Time</b>	Credits against sentences granted pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 129D. Inmates may be awarded up to 5 days of earned good time per program and up to but not to exceed 15 days per month. Total earned time may not exceed 35% of an individual’s original sentence.
<b>Escape</b>	The act by which an inmate, lawfully sentenced or admitted to the custody of the Department of Correction, engages in an unauthorized departure from the confines of a correctional institution, the custody of escorting officers, or who fails to return from an authorized release to the community at the designated time.
<b>Expiration of Sentence</b>	The discharge of an inmate from his/her sentence upon the expiration of his/her term, as reduced by any statutory or earned good time. Note: Statutory good time was eliminated for all offenses committed after June 30, 1994, pursuant to the “Truth-in-Sentencing” Act of 1994.
<b>Governing Offense</b>	With respect to an individual who is incarcerated for multiple offenses, the governing offense is the offense that carries the longest maximum sentence.
<b>Jurisdiction Population</b>	An individual is considered to be under Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction when the Commonwealth has legal authority over the individual regardless of where the inmate is being held. DOC Jurisdiction includes those incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

	facilities and those housed in correctional facilities outside of the Massachusetts DOC (i.e. Massachusetts Houses of Correction, other states' correctional facilities and the Federal Bureau of Prisons).
<b>Mandatory Minimum Sentence</b>	The provision of a criminal penalty for a particular offense which specifies the minimum term of incarceration and prohibits suspension of any sentence, placement on file, continuance without a finding, probation, and release on parole until the minimum term of imprisonment has been served.
<b>Mental Health Commitments</b>	The commitment of a male to Bridgewater State Hospital pursuant to G.L. c. 123, section 7 and 8, 15, 16 or 18.
<b>New Court Commitment</b>	Newly sentenced and committed inmates admitted to a committing institution as prescribed by law. All new court commitments and those individuals who began serving new sentences (e.g., from-and-after sentences) during the year are included in this category even if there was no physical release from custody upon the completion of one sentence and the commencement of another sentence. If an individual is committed to the DOC more than once during a given year, each court commitment for that individual is counted separately.
<b>Non-DOC Releases to Other Jurisdiction</b>	The transfer of non-DOC inmates (from a county, federal, or another state's jurisdiction) out of DOC custody and remand back to the agency of presiding authority.
<b>MCI</b>	Acronym for "Massachusetts Correctional Institution."
<b>Non-Violent Offense</b>	Any offense that falls within the definition of "Property Offense", "Drug Offense" or "Other Offense."
<b>OMH</b>	Acronym for "Open Mental Health". An inmate who is diagnosed with a mental illness or determined to be in need of mental health intervention on an ongoing basis. At any time during his or her incarceration, an inmate may become an open mental health case (OMH) based on a mental health crisis, including suicidal threats or self-injurious behavior and/or the display of signs and/or symptoms of mental illness or emotional distress. Based upon clinical indications and within the discretion of the Primary Care Clinician (PCC), in consultation with the site Psychiatrist (if on medication) and/or Site Mental Health Director, an inmate may also be removed from the active mental health caseload. However, any inmate carrying the Gender Dysphoria (GD) diagnosis will remain an open mental health case.
<b>Operational Capacity</b>	The total bed capacity across all Massachusetts DOC facilities throughout the agency on the last day of a given month. The capacity of a facility is the number of beds authorized for safe and efficient operation of the facility. Operational capacity does not include beds reserved for discipline, investigations, infirmary, or other temporary

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

	holds because these beds are used for temporary or special purposes.
<b>Other Offenses</b>	Offenses that are not clearly categorized into one of the offense categories of Person, Property, Sex or Drug. Other Offenses include obstruction of justice, habitual criminal, prostitution and some weapons possession crimes.
<b>Other Releases</b>	Releases by virtue of deaths, escapes and transfer out of state.
<b>Parole</b>	The discharge of an inmate from a Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction to the supervision of the Parole Board while in the community. Such discharged inmates may be re-incarcerated for violating the terms of their supervision imposed by the Parole Board.
<b>Parole or Expiration of Sentence to Other</b>	Inmates who were released from their current sentence via expiration or parole to one of the following: parole to out of state sentence parole to federal authority parole to immigration parole to a from and after House of Correction sentence parole to warrant parole to a from and after Department of Correction sentence expiration release to out of state sentence expiration release to federal authority expiration release to immigration expiration release to a from and after House of Correction sentence expiration release to warrant expiration release to from and after/concurrent at Department of Correction expiration to civil commitment parole to civil commitment release from civil commitment to warrant
<b>Parole to Community</b>	Inmates released from the Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction with parole supervision.
<b>Parole Violator/Detainer</b>	Parolee who violates conditions of parole. A parole violator may be returned to prison for a parole violation with a new offense or technical parole violation. For reporting purposes, inmates who have been returned to Massachusetts DOC custody pursuant to a parole detainer are included in this group.
<b>Person Offense</b>	Crimes against Person (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 265), including assault and battery, kidnapping, manslaughter, and murder.
<b>Pre-Trial Detainee Population</b>	Individuals housed in MA DOC custody who are held for another MA authority and are detained prior to and during a trial, conviction, and sentencing and not yet convicted of a crime. Detainees are also held by the MA DOC for other jurisdictions on pending federal criminal charges and out-of-state parole violation warrants.
<b>Probation</b>	A court-ordered sentence whereby an inmate is released from

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

confinement but remains under court supervision.

### **Probation Violation**

An inmate who has been returned to resume serving a previously imposed sentence (return on a split sentence) following a revocation of his/her terms of probation. Split sentences to the state prison were eliminated for offenses committed after June 30, 1994, pursuant to the “Truth-in- Sentencing” Act of 1994.

### **Property Offense**

Crimes against Property (primarily set forth in G.L. c. 266), Including: arson, burglary and fraud.

### **Race-Ethnicity**

An inmate's race and ethnicity are self-reported. Race-Ethnicity categories include but are not limited to Hispanic, White, Black or African American, Amer. Indian or Native American, Asian or Pacific Islander or Unknown. Inmates who report as Hispanic are reported as Hispanic despite other Race-Ethnicity claims for the sake of our own reporting. On the public dashboards, we combine the lower count races to Other and report Race-Ethnicity categories as Hispanic, White, Black or African American and Other.

### **Recidivism Rate**

A measurement of the rate at which released inmates are re-incarcerated due to the commission of a new crime or technical violation of their parole or probation.

### **Release from Parole Detainer**

A Parole release where the inmate is allowed to enter the community under parole, or is released to an outside detainer from the DOC through the parole system. This detainer could be a local, county or other jail/ correctional facility, a mental health hospital or a substance abuse treatment center.

### **Release to the Community**

The release of an inmate from the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts DOC by parole or by discharge to the community. Conditions warranting a release to the community generally include: court release (see Crime Lab), expiration of fine, payment of fine, parole and expiration of sentence.

### **Sentence/Sentence Type: State Prison Sentence**

When an inmate is sentenced to state prison, except for life or as a habitual criminal, the court shall not fix the term of imprisonment, but shall fix a maximum and minimum term for which s/he may be imprisoned. Prior to the truth-in-sentencing law, the imposed minimum term shall not be less than two and one half years. All sentences that have an imposed maximum term are eligible to have the term reduced by earned good time, except for habitual offenders, and certain “mandatory” sentences.

All state prison sentences have a minimum and a maximum term, unless an inmate is sentenced for life or as a habitual criminal/offender. The minimum term is used to determine parole eligibility, and the maximum term is used to determine discharge.



## ***Caveats and Definitions***

An inmate is discharged from his/her sentence at the expiration of his/her maximum term reduced by any statutory or earned good time. As the truth-in-sentencing law repealed statutory good time, statutory good time cannot reduce a sentence whose date of offense was after the effective date of the Truth-in- Sentencing Act.

**Sentence/Sentence Type:  
House of Correction/  
“County Sentence”**

A House of Correction sentence has one imposed term which cannot exceed two and a half years. Parole eligibility and discharge are based on the imposed term.

**Sentence/Sentence Type:  
Other State, Federal  
Sentence**

This category is used for inmates who were received by the DOC from another state correctional agency or the Federal Bureau of Prisons and are not sentenced under Massachusetts General Law.

**Sex Offense**

Sex Offenses against the Person primarily set forth by G.L. c. 265 (Crimes against the Person) and G.L. c. 272 Offenses (Crimes against Chastity, Morality, Decency and Good Order) and include rape, unnatural acts, and indecent assault & battery on a child under 14.

**Sexually Dangerous Person  
Commitments**

Persons who have been committed by a court to the Massachusetts Treatment Center or MCI Framingham, a branch of the Massachusetts Treatment Center for female sex offenders, pursuant to G.L. c. 123A, pending the disposition of petitions to commit them as sexually dangerous persons (SDPs) or for one day to life following adjudication as SDPs.

**SMI**

Acronym for “Serious Mental Illness”. (M.G.L. c.127, §1) A current or recent diagnosis by a qualified mental health professional of one or more of the following disorders described in the 5th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: (a) schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders; (b) major depressive disorders; (c) all types of bipolar disorders; (d) a neurodevelopmental disorder, dementia or other cognitive disorder; (e) any disorder commonly characterized by breaks with reality or perceptions of reality; (f) all types of anxiety disorders; (g) trauma and stressor related disorders; or (h) severe personality disorders; or a finding by a qualified mental health professional that the inmate is at serious risk of substantially deteriorating mentally or emotionally while confined in Restrictive Housing, or already has so deteriorated while confined in Restrictive Housing, such that diversion or removal is deemed to be clinically appropriate by a qualified mental health professional.

**Snapshot Population**

The total number of inmates of all commitment types incarcerated in the Massachusetts DOC on a given day, including all pre-trial detainees, civil commitments, criminally sentenced and transfer inmates from another state, federal, or county authority. The “Snapshot Population” may be used as a gauge to determine population trends in different categories (i.e. stock jurisdiction or stock custody population



## ***Caveats and Definitions***

over time).

### **Technical Violation**

A violation of parole conditions that does not necessarily constitute grounds for a parole revocation.

### **Violent Offense**

Any offense that falls within the definition of a “Person Offense” or “Sex Offense.”

### **Western Massachusetts Regional Women’s Correction Center**

From November 2011 to February 2012, 51 county sentenced female inmates in DOC custody were transferred to a regional correctional center in Hampden County. Beginning in November 2011, county sentenced females, including those from Worcester County and counties west of Worcester County, will be held in the custody of this regional center and no longer at the MA DOC.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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### **Public Dashboard Definitions**

<b>Age Group</b>	An inmate's age group as of January 1st of the most recent year. The age groups are 18-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-over.
<b>Custody</b>	All inmates who are incarcerated in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
<b>DOC</b>	The Massachusetts Department of Correction.
<b>Inmate Type</b>	The status of an inmate admitted to prison; either pre-arraignment or pre-trial admission, civil commitment, or a criminal sentence from the courts.
<b>Institution</b>	All of the institutions that fall under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Correction. All information can be found under the dropdown tab labeled "Institution" or on the tab of the same name.
<b>Race-Ethnicity</b>	An inmate's race and ethnicity are self-reported. Race-Ethnicity categories include but are not limited to Hispanic, White, Black or African American, Amer. Indian or Native American, Asian or Pacific Islander or Unknown. Inmates who report as Hispanic are reported as Hispanic despite other Race-Ethnicity claims for the sake of our own reporting. On the public dashboards, we combine the lower count races to Other and report Race-Ethnicity categories as Hispanic, White, Black or African American and Other.
<b>Security Level</b>	The security level designation of the releasing facility: Stony Brook, electronic monitoring (ELMO), pre-release, minimum, medium, maximum.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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### **Admissions Dashboard**

<b>Admission Age</b>	Computed age of inmate at commitment for their present offense based on the inmate's date of birth and commitment date. Date of birth is a demographic self-reported by the inmate at time of booking.
<b>Admissions</b>	Inmates who are admitted to a facility of the Department of Correction (DOC), pursuant to a court order, as a transfer from another DOC facility, pursuant to the execution of a parole violation warrant or pursuant to the execution of an escape warrant.
<b>Escapee Returns</b>	Inmate returned following an escape results in a new admission into the DOC.
<b>Parole Violation/Detainer</b>	Parolee who violates conditions of parole. A parole violator may be returned to prison for a parole violation with a new offense or technical parole violation. For reporting purposes, inmates who have been returned to Massachusetts DOC custody pursuant to a parole detainer are included in this group.
<b>Re-Admit from Court Release</b>	Readmission to a MADOC facility following a revoked court release.
<b>Transfer from Other Jurisdiction</b>	The admission of an inmate into a MADOC facility from an outside jurisdiction.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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### **Release/ Release to the Community Dashboards**

<b>Court Release</b>	Inmates released from the Massachusetts Department of Correction via court release including the following: Habeas to Court - Sentenced; Habeas to Court - Did not Return; Habeas to Court- Return with new case number; Habeas to Court- Received forthwith sentence; Court Release- Sentence revoked/stayed/vacated; Bailed-Released on personal recognizance; Bailed-Released on personal recognizance to a warrant.
<b>Expiration of DOC Sentence to Community</b>	The release of an inmate from the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts by parole or by discharge to the community. Conditions warranting a release to the community generally include: court release (see Crime Lab), expiration of fine, payment of fine, parole and expiration of sentence.
<b>Non-DOC Release to Other Jurisdiction</b>	The transfer of non-DOC inmates (from a county, Jurisdiction federal, or another state's jurisdiction) out of DOC custody and remand back to the agency of presiding authority.
<b>Parole - Expiration of Sentence to Other</b>	Inmates who were released from their current sentence via expiration or parole to one of the following: Parole to Out of State Sentence; Parole to Federal Authority; Parole to Immigration; Parole to a From and After House of Correction Sentence; Parole to Warrant; Parole to a From and After Department of Correction Sentence; Expiration Release to Out of State Sentence; Expiration Release to Federal Authority; Expiration Release to Immigration; Expiration Release to From and After House of Correction Sentence; Expiration Release to Warrant; Expiration Release to From and After/Concurrent at Department of Correction; Expiration to Civil Commitment; Parole to Civil Commitment; Release from Civil Commitment to Warrant.
<b>Parole to Community</b>	Inmates released from the Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction with parole supervision.
<b>Release Address</b>	Most recent release address recorded for the inmate. A demographic self-reported by an inmate prior to release. <u>Note:</u> For Release reports prior to 2004, the "Last Known Address" (the address reported by the inmate at time of commitment) is the address reported.

## ***Caveats and Definitions***

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### **Releases**

A release occurs when an inmate is released from the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction by way of expiration of sentence, parole, a non- Department of Correction inmate's release to other jurisdiction, a court release or other legal release from the custody of Massachusetts Department of Correction.

### **Release to the Community Dashboard**

The MA DOC release to the community dashboard displays criminally sentenced inmates released to either a community in Massachusetts or out of state. Each release is counted, meaning an inmate may be counted more than once in a year if the inmate is released multiple times. \*The map includes releases to only Massachusetts.\*